



93RD DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-1778
FAX: (517) 373-5780
E-MAIL: paulopsommer@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PAUL E. OPSOMMER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

June 28, 2007

Honorable Members of the New Economy and Quality of Life Committee
Honorable Ed Clemente, Chair
Honorable Gabe Leland, Vice Chair
Honorable Bill Huizenga, Minority Vice Chair

Written testimony regarding HCR 0028

Dear Colleagues:

Thank-you for the opportunity to discuss this important and timely resolution. Keeping business and tourism flowing between Michigan and Canada is vital to our shared economies.

A dual purpose license has merit for several reasons, and such a concept should be aggressively pursued. However, three important factors will also need to be weighed in working with the Department of Homeland Security:

- 1) Any dual purpose license created needs to be strictly OPTIONAL. Only Michigan citizens who want to participate in the program should be enrolled, and any additional costs to citizens should be shouldered solely by those citizens who wish to purchase such a license.
- 2) The federal government should also be willing to supply money to such a project. A dual purpose license shifts much of the cost and administration of "passport-like" documents from the federal government onto State governments. As such, the federal government should be willing to provide monies to the State for such an endeavor.
- 3) The technologies associated with such a dual purpose license will need to be weighed. In Washington State, considerations have been given to making these licenses with Radio Frequency ID chips. Whether or not Michigan would want to employ such a technology must be a decision that we make as a State in partnership with the Federal Government.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Opsommer, 93rd District